

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday February 21, 2018

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday February 21, 2018 in the meeting room at Cabarrus DHS. Ann Benfield (Co-Chair) led the meeting that was attended by, Skylia Soloman, Debra Pless, Misty Mullins, Samelia Jones, QuWayne Thompson, Lora Lipe, Jennifer Baucom, and Elizabeth Overcash.

Committee Members not present: Maureen O'Bryan, Linda Roberts, Debbie Johnson, Tanisha Jones, Kimberly Hutchins, Deborah Beatty, Danielle Mauldin, Spencer Swain, Auorora Swain, Patricia Seahorn, Lashonda Houston, Annie Parker, Trina Wenzel, Lyne Goode, Jamie Clark and Sue Aschbrenner.

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves around the table. Samelia Jones is the new committee representative for CCRI. Misty Mullins is from Fun N Learning in Mt. Pleasant and is attending the meeting as a community member.

Quorum

A voting quorum was established with 3 of the 5 voting members in attendance.

Action Items:

Meeting Minutes 9/20/17: A quorum was not established in September, so the meeting minutes from that meeting were reviewed by the committee. QuWayne submitted a motion to approve the minutes. Debra submitted a second to the motion. All approved.

Meeting Minutes 11/15/17: A quorum was not established in November, so the meeting minutes from that meeting were reviewed by the committee. One change was recommended by the committee to change the month in the first paragraph to read 'November'. QuWayne submitted a motion to approve the minutes with the change requested. Debra submitted a second to the motion. All approved.

Information/Updates:

Ann announced that Elizabeth Overcash is leaving her position at the Partnership as of 2/27. Ann will continue to look for a candidate who has technical assistance and NC Pre-K experience. Until the position is filled, anyone with NC Pre-K questions may contact Ann or Jamie at the Partnership.

Ann also provided an update on Cabarrus Head Start. This year they had about 80 children enrolled in their Home Base program this year. CDI has decided not to purchase the current Kerr St. property last week. A local group is working with CDI to help them find another location in town. The current director, Glenda Knight is leaving her position on March 9th.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is still accepting enrollment of children under age 5 for free books each month. Also, if you would like to have the Dolly cut out to come to an event at your location, feel free to schedule it with Stephanie Bynum or Ann Benfield.

NC Pre-K (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared NC Pre-K Site Monitoring has been completed. She is now finishing up the follow up visits that were required by a few items that arose for 3 sites during the monitoring process. Any items that need additional attention will be handled by Ann in Elizabeth's absence.

The 2018-2020 Site Selection Process is nearly complete. 10 sites applied, which includes 2 new sites, and the sub-committee has been meeting regularly in January and February to complete the assessment process. That sub-committee will bring recommendations to the next NC Pre-K/EE meeting in March for site approval.

Elizabeth distributed an updated timeline to the committee and reviewed what will be coming up in the March and April meetings. There will be many voting items and she encouraged everyone to attend those meetings.

Elizabeth asked the committee to review the Family Engagement and Transition plans before the March meeting. When the committee approved the plans last year, there was nothing in the plans that made provision for accountability or recourse for sites who did not follow the plans. She said that she had asked sites to provide a 'mid-year check in' for the Family Engagement plan this month, so that they would determine if they were on track to meet the goals by the end of the year. About half of the sites have responded at the time of this meeting. In March, the committee needs to determine if they will require any accountability for these plans, and if so, who will do it and what will that look like.

Smart Start (Ann)

Ann shared that Smart Start programs are in the middle of a 2 year bid process. The Board will meet next week to renew program approval for the last year in this cycle. The Smart Start Scholarship program is currently on hold for new applicants because of a market rate increase in the state effective October 1st.

DHS Subsidy (Lora)

Lora is back from Maternity Leave and reported that they began pulling families off of the wait list in mid-November. They removed 178 families from the list in November, 180 families in December and 327 children in January. The current wait list is now at families who applied in November 2017.

They are still serving special needs and homeless populations. They currently have an additional \$175K to serve those families through the end of the year. If that money is not used, it will be added to the larger fund to serve the general population.

Lora is currently waiting on the financial predictions for next year before removing more families from the wait list. There have been 3 new hires in that department and they are working on trainings and resuming provider visits. NC Fast is still working through bugs in the system.

Family Support (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared the CCS Kindergarten registration week is March 19th. Jennifer Baucom shared KCS is not doing a specific week this year, but an 'Open Registration' time beginning the week of March 19th. Magnet program applications for KCS are due Feb. 28th. Elizabeth shared that there is a contracted person who is providing the Transition to Kindergarten classes to all NC Pre-K sites who requested the meeting. Some sites have chosen to do their own classes. All are required to do an educational session for parents on that topic, according to the Transition plan.

Thompson CFF

QuWayne Thompson shared that they are beginning an Incredible Years program for teaching classroom management. Tanisha is currently looking for high level teachers who can further their skills and eventually become advocates for the next round of teachers. Interested teachers can call 704-652-8991 for more information.

McKnight

Jennifer Baucom shared that McKnight is utilizing the IY Family piece from Families First in Salisbury. Also, they have begun providing the Orff music program to children in their program. It is a hands on program that provides an emphasis on listening and following directions. They received a grant to purchase the instruments. Additionally, McKnight has received a grant for restroom renovation and a new HVAC system for the whole building. The county commissioners provided the in-kind match for the grant.

Next scheduled meeting: March 21, 10am at DHS

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am